

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for the separation of 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from a solution of 1,4-butanediol dinitrate and 1,4-butanediol in a water-immiscible organic solvent, comprising:

a) extraction—of extracting 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from said solution [[by]] with water; and

b) extraction—of extracting 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from the resulting aqueous solution, [[by]] with a water-immiscible organic solvent.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in two or more extraction columns.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in 2, 3 or 4 extraction columns.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in 2 extraction columns.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 further comprising an additional washing of the aqueous phase from step a) with the same water-immiscible organic solvent as that used in the subsequent step b).

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1, comprising the extraction of the resulting organic solution from step a) with the aqueous phase from step b) and the recycle of the aqueous solution to the extraction column of step a).

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1, comprising 1 to 4 extraction cycles according to steps a) and b).

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1, wherein the water-immiscible organic solvent is an organic chlorinated solvent.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the chlorinated solvent is selected from

the group consisting of dichloromethane, trichloromethane, tetrachloromethane, trichloroethane and tetrachloroethane.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the chlorinated solvent is dichloromethane.

11. (cancelled)

12. (new) A process for the separation of 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from a solution of 1,4-butanediol dinitrate and 1,4-butanediol in a water-immiscible organic solvent, with one or more extraction cycles wherein each cycle consists of:

a) extracting 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from said solution with water; and

b) extracting 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from the resulting aqueous solution, with a water-immiscible organic solvent.

13. (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in two or more extraction columns.

14. (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in 2, 3 or 4 extraction columns.

15. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the extraction according to steps a) and b) is carried out in counter-current in 2 extraction columns.

16. (new) The process according to claim 12 further comprising an additional washing of the aqueous phase from step a) with the same water-immiscible organic solvent as that used in the subsequent step b).

17. (new) The process according to claim 12, comprising the extraction of the resulting organic solution from step a) with the aqueous phase from step b) and the recycle of the aqueous solution to the extraction column of step a).

18. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the process consists of 1 to 4 extraction cycles.

19. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the water-immiscible organic solvent is an organic chlorinated solvent.

20. (new) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the chlorinated solvent is selected from the group consisting of dichloromethane, trichloromethane, tetrachloromethane, trichloroethane and tetrachloroethane.

21. (new) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the chlorinated solvent is dichloromethane.